

Special Olympics
Connecticut, Inc.

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Special Olympics Connecticut

changing attitudes. changing lives.

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Dear Federal Communications Commission,

Special Olympics Connecticut is proud to call WVIT/NBC 30 a Partner Sponsor. We teamed up with the Connecticut NBC affiliate over 10 years ago and the partnership has grown every year.

The mission of Special Olympics Connecticut (SOCT) is to provide year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities; giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Since 1969, SOCT has been *changing attitudes and changing lives*. SOCT currently serves 8,984 athletes (with intellectual disabilities) and partners (without intellectual disabilities) from across the state. Athletes and partners compete in 21 different Olympic-type sports thanks to over 100 local coordinators, 900 coaches and 10,000 additional volunteers.

WVIT/NBC 30 supports SOCT annually with statewide coverage of our events, talent appearances, web support and Public Service Announcements. As a Partner Sponsor, WVIT/NBC 30 has been a tremendous asset to help SOCT raise awareness and funds throughout Connecticut. Every year WVIT/NBC 30 supports all 9 Penguin Plunges by running PSA's for 6-8 weeks, anchors and reporters plunge themselves, while raising money online, and the news department covers many of our plunges. In the last few years our plunges have grown by over one hundred thousand dollars raised and we attribute much of that success to the support we receive from WVIT/NBC 30. The station also provides Public Service Announcements, talent appearances, news and web coverage annually for Winter Games, Summer Games, the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Dream Ride. Above and beyond all that WVIT/NBC 30 supports us by providing emcees and news coverage for our annual Hall of Fame Awards, CAS Unified Sports Michael's Cup Awards, Eastern Regional Games and most additional requests we ask throughout the year.

WVIT/NBC 30 also produced a generic Public Service Announcement for our Unified Sports Program a few years ago. Since the first airing of those spots our program has grown tremendously and introduced thousands of children in Connecticut to this enormously successful and life changing program.

The commitment, dedication and support that Special Olympics Connecticut has received from WVIT/NBC 30 has changed our organization for the better and we are so proud and honored to be Partners in a Caring Community with them.

Sincerely,

Laura Gremelsbacker
Director of Public Relations
Special Olympics Connecticut